

" From the present ministers, we have not, I trust, to fear so unjust, so oppressive, so odious a measure as
 " that of loading us with the debts of the East India Company. Yet, what are they to do? Are the East
 " India fund holders to go unpaid? These are questions that every man should put to himself, and to which
 " he should, without delay, make up his mind to give an answer. The affairs of India *must* now have at-
 " tention bestowed on them. Mr. FRANCIS has, over and over again, told the House of Commons, that
 " the time would come, when these affairs would make men attend to them, though against their will.
 " That time is now fast approaching. The call for money out of our taxes, out of our incomes, out of our
 " land and our goods and our labour, is at hand; and, will the parliament grant that money? Will the
 " People's representatives tax them to pay the *debts* of these *opulent traders*?—POLITICAL REGISTER,
 8th February, 1806.

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SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

PENSIONS TO THE ROYAL FAMILY. (Continued from p. 33).—At the page here referred to, and those immediately following it, will be found some remarks upon the measure, now before parliament, for making, out of the taxes annually raised, an addition to the pensions of the younger branches of the Royal Family. Since those remarks were written, several members of the House of Commons, of whom particular mention will be, by-and-by, made, have had the virtue to stand forward in opposition to these enormous grants.—But, before we proceed to relate what has, since the article above referred to was written, been done with respect to the final adoption of the measure, it is necessary that we take a more correct view of all the past transactions relating to a provision for these younger branches of the Royal Family.—The *Message*, as given in p. 33, was taken from the report thereof inserted in the newspapers; and, though it was substantially correct, except as to the date of the year when the first act was passed for granting pensions to the younger branches of the Royal Family, which year should have been 1778, instead of 1788, yet, it will be better here to insert the *Message* entire, as it now stands in the votes of the House of Commons.—“GEORGE
 “ R.—His Majesty having, by his *Message*
 “ of the 8th day of April, 1778, recom-
 “ mended to his faithful Commons to make
 “ competent provision for the honourable
 “ support and maintenance of the younger
 “ branches of the Royal Family, and in con-
 “ sequence thereof, an Act having passed,
 “ charging certain annuities, for such pur-
 “ pose, upon the Aggregate Fund of Great
 “ Britain; but no provision having after-
 “ wards been made in the Act, by which
 “ the several revenues composing the said
 “ Aggregate Fund were transferred to the
 “ Consolidated Fund of G. Britain, for se-
 “ curing the said annuities, by reason
 “ whereof the provision so recommended

“ by his Maj. and carried into effect by Act
 “ of Parliament, has failed and become in-
 “ effectual; his Maj. recommends to the
 “ House of Commons to consider of such
 “ measures as may be necessary for securing
 “ the said annuities upon the Consolidated
 “ Fund, and his Maj. cannot forbear taking
 “ this occasion to express his desire, that his
 “ faithful Commons will take into consid-
 “ eration the propriety of such increase of
 “ the said allowances, as the change of cir-
 “ cumstances that has since taken place
 “ shall appear to have rendered just and
 “ reasonable, and that they will make such
 “ further provision, in consequence thereof,
 “ as the nature of the case shall be found to
 “ require.”—The only points of differ-
 “ ence between the *Message* itself and the re-
 “ port of it, as before given, are, first, the date
 “ of the year, and, second, that in the Mes-
 “ sage itself nothing is said about the *decreased*
 “ value of money. But, as to the first, it will
 “ hereafter appear, that, when the pensions,
 “ now enjoyed by the Royal Dukes, were set-
 “ tled, it was upon the ground of their having
 “ separate establishments; and, as to the se-
 “ cond, though the depreciation of money is
 “ not expressly mentioned in the *Message*, it
 “ is obviously alluded to when His Majesty
 “ speaks of a *change of circumstances*, and it
 “ has been expressly mentioned by the minis-
 “ ters who advised, and who have brought
 “ forward the measure. All the reasoning,
 “ therefore, made use of in my former re-
 “ marks, is as applicable to the case now as it
 “ was before I knew what were the exact
 “ words of the *Message*. But, having, in the
 “ course of the week, been led to inquire more
 “ fully into the nature and amount of the sever-
 “ al grants to, and provisions for, the Royal
 “ Family, and the weight of expense, which
 “ the nation has to support on account thereof,
 “ I am in hopes that I shall now be able to
 “ make a statement of the whole of the case
 “ somewhat more full and clear than any that
 “ has yet fallen under my observation.—
 “ This statement I shall divide into two parts:

1st. As far as relates to the object of the present Message, as connected with the act of 1778; and 2d. Showing, as I think, that, if any addition to the pensions of the younger branches of the Royal Family had been wanting, they might have been made by his Majesty and his Royal Consort.—With regard to the First part of this statement, it is necessary to observe, that there was a mistake (a mistake evidently arising from the unintelligible language of the Message itself) in supposing, that, by virtue of the act of 1778, the Royal Dukes have received the pensions which are now to be augmented. That act, which was passed in consequence of a Message from the King, dated on the 8th of April in that year, did, indeed, provide for the settling of pensions upon the younger branches of the Royal Family; but, it was a settlement to go into effect *not then*, and only *after the demise* of his Majesty, as will appear from the title and description of the act itself:—"An Act for enabling his Majesty to settle on their Royal Highnesses the Prince Frederick Bishop of Osnaburgh, William Henry, Edward Ernest, Augustus Frederick, and Adolphus Frederick, an annuity of 60,000l. per annum; and also to settle on their Royal Highnesses the Princesses Charlotte Augusta Matilda, Augusta Sophia, Elizabeth Mary, and Sophia, one other annuity of 30,000l. per annum; and also to settle on H. R. H. Prince William Frederick one other annuity of 8000l. per annum; and on her Highness the Princess Sophia Matilda one other annuity of 4000l. per annum."—Agreeably with this title, his Majesty is, by the act, "empowered to settle on his six younger sons an annuity of 60,000l. per annum, to commence from the demise of his Majesty; and to be charged upon any hereditary duties which, by 1 Geo. 3. Cap. 1. were made part of the Aggregate Fund, &c. No one of the Princes to have a greater annuity than 15,000l. a year. To settle on the five Princesses, his daughters, an annuity of 30,000l. per annum, to commence from the demise of his Majesty; and to be charged on the duties above mentioned. Regulations for dividing the said annuity upon the marriage or death of any of the Princesses. His Majesty empowered to settle an annuity of 8000l. per annum on Prince William Frederick, to commence from the demise of the Duke of Gloucester; and to be charged on the Aggregate Fund, and the hereditary duties, &c. before mentioned. His Majesty empowered to

settle an annuity of 4000l. per annum, on the Princess Sophia Matilda, to commence from the demise of the Duke of Gloucester; and to be charged on the Aggregate Fund, &c. as the last mentioned annuity. Annuities to be tax-free."—Thus, it appears, that all these annuities were provided for in case his Majesty should die, while his younger sons and daughters were in their childhood; or, at least, before they should arrive at the age, or the circumstances, when parliament should provide for a separate establishment for each or any of them. This is still the case with regard to the maiden Princesses; but, assuredly, not so with regard to the Royal Dukes, every one of whom has had a separate establishment, provided for by parliament, and enjoyed by the Royal Duke *previous to the demise* of his Majesty; nor has there ever been any *retrenchment* in the charges of the *Civil List* on account of this part of the Royal Family having been separately provided for!—The present Message, and the act to be passed in consequence of it, became necessary on account of the *demise of the Duke of Gloucester*, the fund, whence the pensions of the young Duke and his Royal sister were to be paid, being now no longer in existence; or rather (for that is all) the *name* of the channel of payment having been changed, since the act of 1778 was passed. But, to read the Message, who would not imagine, that it was necessary to pass a new act in order that any one of the Royal Dukes might be enabled to draw his pension *now*? And, who would not imagine, besides, that no act, granting pensions, or allowances, to the Royal Dukes, or any of them, had been passed since 1778? Who, in short, upon reading the Message, having first read the act of 1778, would not imagine, that all the Children of his Majesty, the Heir Apparent and Princess Royal excepted, were still living with, or, at least, maintained by his Majesty out of the sum to him annually granted under the name of *Civil List*? Yet, that this is *not* the case is well known to every one at all acquainted with that mass of confused, that mass of studiously puzzling statements, commonly called the Financial Accounts of this country. The fact is, that the act of 1778 has lain dormant, because there has been *no demise* to call it into operation; but, other acts have been passed, whereby allowances have been granted to the Royal Dukes; and, accordingly, those Royal Dukes now do, and long have, received annual allowances as follow:

Duke of York	£14,000
Duchess of York	4,000—18,000

Duke of Clarence	-	-	12,000
Duke of Kent	-	-	12,000
Duke of Cumberland	-	-	12,000
Duke of Sussex	-	-	12,000
Duke of Cambridge	-	-	12,000

To these pensions is now proposed to be added one-third, except in the case of the Duke of York, who, as Lord Henry Petty remarked, has *most liberally* declined coming forward on this occasion. Upon the propriety of this remark the reader was enabled to judge by the statement in pages 39 and 40, to which I beg leave to refer; and, in the same article, it was, I think, clearly shown, that the addition, now proposed to be made to the pensions of the Royal Dukes, is unnecessary, and that it is unwise in the highest degree.—I now propose to show, that, if any such addition had been necessary, it might have been made by his Majesty and his Royal Consort, without any new burthen upon the people.—I before adverted to the circumstance of his Majesty possessing *property in the public funds* (see page 42); and, in the following page, I spoke of the sums, which, notwithstanding the existence of this property, had, in the years 1802 and 1804, been voted by parliament for the purpose of clearing off the *arrears* of the *Civil List*; that is to say, the deficiency in the appropriations for defraying the expenses of the Royal household and of the privy purse of his Majesty and the Queen. But, in order to establish the position before me, to wit, that if any addition to the incomes of the younger branches of the Royal Family had been necessary, it might have been made by his Majesty and his Royal Consort; in order to establish this position, I must beseech the reader's patience, while I enter somewhat in detail into an inquiry of *what the Civil List is*.—This head of immense public charge has, like many other things retained its *name* after having almost entirely changed its nature. It was formerly called the *CIVIL LIST*, because it contained a List of *all* the annual national expenses, except the expenses appertaining to the Army and the Navy, the whole of the national expenditure being divided into two parts, *Civil* and *Military*. But *now* the case is far indeed otherwise. There are twenty, or fifty, as far as I know, modes and channels of paying for Civil Services; and the Civil List, though it is, as we shall see, a jumble of statements and accounts, is, principally, an account of what is annually paid to, or for the use of, their Majesty's and their household.—The total annual charge for the Civil List was, previous to the year 1804, when Pitt came back again to power,

898,000*l.* in words, *eight hundred and ninety eight thousand pounds*. A good round sum! But, we have been frequently told, with great truth, that *all* this money is not expended upon the Royal Family; but, that a considerable part of it goes to the payment of *pensions* and to that of other services unconnected with the support of their Majesties and their children. This is so, and, were it not so, the sum would be enormous indeed, especially when we consider, the immense domains of which the King and Queen and Royal Family have the possession and the enjoyment; when we consider, that they inherit all that the human mind can conceive of useful and agreeable, in the way of residence in town and country; when we consider that they possess Palaces and other buildings of all sorts in such abundance; that they possess Parks and Gardens and Farms and Manors beyond one would suppose, the compass of human wishes; and that all these they possess and enjoy without tax or duty or service or incumbrance of any kind whatsoever.—In 1804, just at the close of a session of parliament, Pitt, whom Lord Grenville still takes every opportunity of representing as the *Saviour of England*, procured a vote, by which a positive addition of 60,000*l.* a year was made to the Civil List. But, at present, we will confine our explanation of the Civil List to the year 1803, and speak, by-and-by, of this addition, as also of the sums which have been voted for the payment of arrears during the administration of Mr. Addington and the last administration of Mr. Pitt.—The total sum appropriated by parliament for the Civil List expenses of 1803 (that is to say, for the year *ending with 5th of January, 1804*, according to the *clear mode* of keeping and stating the public accounts), was, as was before stated, 898,000*l.* but, from a report laid before the House of Commons in 1804, it appears that the actual expenditure (leaving a debt to be cleared off by parliament) was, 1,148,851*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.*, which sum it is quite impossible to transcribe thus, without being struck with admiration at the minute accuracy of the right trusty and well-beloved persons, who have the handling of all this money. It really gives one an astonishing idea of their capacity as well as of their exactness! Now, as to the *distribution* of this sum, we must take the several *Classes*, as they are called in the Report, though such a *classification* was, surely, never before heard of in the whole world.

FIRST CLASS.—The pensions and allowances to the Royal Family *£* 202,500 0 0

SECOND CLASS.—Salaries to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Keeper, Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal, Speaker of the House of Commons, and the Judges - 32,955 0 0

But, observe that this is only a part of the Salaries of these officers. If by part is charged in one account and part in another account I must leave the reader to guess, if he can.

THIRD CLASS.—Salaries to Ministers at Foreign Courts, being resident at the said Courts - 106,935 6 8½

Observe, that we are speaking of the year which ended on the 31st day of January, 1804, and I beg leave to state, that, amongst the foreign courts, at which we had, it seems, ministers resident in that year, were Turin and Florence.

FOURTH CLASS.—Approved bills of all Tradesmen, Artificers, and Labourers, for any articles supplied, or work done for his Majesty's service - 220,710 8 5½

FIFTH CLASS.—The Menial Servants of His Majesty's Household - 97,539 4 11

SIXTH CLASS.—Pensions - 113,000 7 4

Of this sum 10,000l. was paid to late ministers at foreign courts. The rest to former servants of the Royal Family, and others that one can hardly describe. But, let it not be supposed, that it is the only charge for pensioners. There are several other distinct classes of pensioners, besides the sinecure placemen.

SEVENTH CLASS.—This class has no title; and, indeed, it would puzzle any one to give it a title. It consists chiefly of a list of offices and of the salaries severally attached to them, from one pound a year to four thousand pounds a year. It contains offices of all sorts and all sizes from the Clerk of the Pipe, to the Lord President; from the King's Rat Killer, to the Attorney General. Never was there such an assemblage seen before. The total amount of this "Class," if a class it must be, is 62,520 6 1

EIGHTH CLASS.—The salaries and pensions of the High Treasurer, or Commissioner of the Treasury, and Chancellor of the Exchequer - 13,822 0 0

Why this was not classed along with the Salaries of the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Keeper, &c. in the Second Class; or with the Salary of the Lord President, in the Seventh, would it not put a wizard to his wits' end to tell?

NINTH CLASS.—Occasional Payments - 202,762 9 7½

These payments are for all sorts of services and all sorts of things. Such a jumble my eyes never before beheld.

Total L. 1,148,851 2 1½

Such is that celebrated concern, called the Civil List, out of which we must, in order to come at the object in view, pick the sums which appear to be applied solely to purposes connected with the maintenance of the Royal family. The whole of the sum charged under the First Class is of that description - L. 202,500 0 0

FOURTH CLASS, the whole - 220,710 8 5½

FIFTH CLASS, the whole - 97,539 4 11

SIXTH CLASS, about one third - 37,000 0 0

SEVENTH CLASS, about one third - 20,000 0 0

NINTH CLASS, about one third - 66,000 0 0

L. 679,749 13 4½

But, from this must be deducted the following sums paid to branches of the Royal Family under the head of First Class:

To the Prince of Wales L. 60,000

— Duke of York 12,000

— Duchess of Cumberland 4,000

— Duke of Clarence 2,500

— Princess Charlotte

of Wales - 6,000

— Duke of Cambridge 4,000

88,000 0 0

N.B. These sums were exclusive of the before stated pensions, which are annually paid to the Royal Dukes, and which are now about to be augmented!

L. 591,749 13 4½

This, then, is the sum, which in the year 1803 (to say nothing about additions and arrears, nothing about Palaces and Lands and exemptions from taxes) was paid by the nation for the support of the King, the Queen, and the maiden Princesses.

Another view of the subject will bring me at once to the point that I aim at.—The charges in the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Ninth Classes, include every expense, of whatever nature, made in support of His Majesty, the Queen, and those of their children who remain with their Majesties. Palaces, all sorts of dwelling places, carriages, horses, servants, attendants of every description, all things for pleasure as well as for other more important purposes, are provided under the heads of these Classes, and, there remains (besides the income from farms or other lands and possessions) 60,000l. a year for "His Majesty's Privy Purse;" and 58,000l. a year (it is more now) for "Her Majesty, the

"Queen." These sums are, according to the account itself, over and above all and every item of expenditure; over and above all and every *want* that any one has supposed their Majesties to have or to have had. Bounties, Gratuities, Grants, even *Charities*; all, all and every thing, is brought to account, and, there are, then, these two large sums, which have remained, year after year, and year upon year, in the possession of their Majesties, to be disposed of in any manner that to them might seem meet. I willingly pass over *shares of prizes*, and other sources of income. I rest solely upon the fact of these two sums having, for many, many years past, fallen annually into the privy purse of their Majesties, where, of course, it may be supposed, that they have accumulated in a degree proportioned to the magnitude of their original principal and to the length of the time during which the accumulation may have been going on. But, for argument's sake, suppose that their Majesties have *saved* none of this money; suppose that, notwithstanding the exemption provided for by law of *His Majesty's property in the public funds*; notwithstanding this, let us suppose, that their Majesties have made *no saving*; still I am of opinion, that, out of the 118,000*l.* a year, allowed for their *privy purse*, the addition, now about to be made to the incomes of the younger branches of the Royal Family, might have been made, if such addition had been necessary; and that, at any rate, I am of opinion, that no addition to the burthens of the people, on account of the Royal Family, ought to have been made, until this heavy privy purse had been largely drawn from.—Am I told, that, upon my scheme of Royal support, there would be no room for their Majesties *saving* a shilling? My answer is, that I never could, and cannot now, see any necessity for such saving. Indeed, I can see no *use* in it. I cannot, for my life, perceive any purpose that it is calculated to answer. What can a king of England do with savings? The supporting of his dignity is a necessary consequence of the existence of the constitution; and, if the constitution were to cease to exist, where would be the security for his savings? And, as to her Majesty, the Queen, 100,000*l.* a year is, by law, settled upon her Majesty for life, in case of his Majesty's previous demise; besides which Buckingham House, Richmond Old Park, and several other valuable settlements and provisions are made for her Majesty.—With all these facts and circumstances before me, I must lament that, at a time like the

present, any addition to the burthens of the people should be made for the purpose of augmenting the income of *any* branch of the Royal Family; and, if it be finally resolved on to augment the incomes of the younger branches, or any of them, I must lament, if his Majesty be not advised to make the augmentation out of those ample means, which, from his privy purse alone, he appears to me to possess. I grudge nothing to the Royal Family that is necessary to the support of their dignity. No part of my taxes do I more cheerfully pay than that part which for this purpose is wanted; because I know, that, if the dignity and splendour of the throne be not supported, the government itself much soon perish, and because I am convinced, that when duly exercised, this government is the best in the world. But, because I am most anxious to see all that is necessary granted, it does not follow that no grant whatever, let the circumstances of the times be what they may, ought to be disapproved of by me. I think the allowances to the Royal Family already too large; the more I have inquired into the subject the firmer has my conviction become, that it is much larger than is consistent with the good of the country; and, as I am persuaded that this conviction is very generally entertained, I cannot but hope, that the efforts, which some few members of the House of Commons have been making, and which shall be more particularly noticed in my next, will, at last, be crowned with success.

INDIA BUDGET.—On Thursday the 10th instant, the India Budget was brought forward in the House of Commons. The conduct of ministers in deferring the annual review of the Finances of India to so late a period in the session as the 10th day of July, is not to be justified on any principle, nor can it be accounted for on any other supposition, but that they wished to defer the discussion of India Affairs until nobody should be left to take part in the business, or even to listen to it. This delay, if it was not unavoidable, seems the more blameable, considering that *no* India Budget was produced last year by Lord Castlereagh, under a pretence that the necessary accounts, which the presidencies abroad are enjoined by Act of Parliament to send home annually, had not been received. This omission, if true, would constitute a criminal charge against those presidencies for disobedience of the law; especially, if the motive should appear to be to conceal, as long as they could, from the knowledge of the Directors of the East-India Company and of Parliament, the

ruinous state to which the Finances of India are reduced. Whether this was the case or not, or whether Lord Castlereagh was ashamed or afraid to produce the accounts in his possession, the fact is, that there was no India Budget for 1805, and that the Budget for 1806 has been delayed until a period when twenty members could not be found or persuaded to attend it. Towards the latter part of the debate, there was not more than half that number in the House. I believe I shall make it appear that the subject deserves more attention both from parliament and the public, than has hitherto been paid to it. Now, at last, however, a state of the India Company's Affairs, much nearer the truth than any that has ever yet been produced, was exhibited by Lord Morpeth. The official documents, from which he spoke, are furnished by the Court of Directors, and have been some time in print for the use of the members very few of whom, I fear, have ever looked into them. Lord Morpeth entered fairly enough into all the details, and this he did with an accuracy which shewed that he had made himself master of the subject, and that he was not disposed to follow the example of his predecessors, by concealing the facts, or misrepresenting the case. Mr. Johnstone and Mr. Francis contracted those details into some specific results, from which they drew such general conclusions, as, I believe will at last startle this country, if any thing can, for its own safety; when the country comes to know, as I am resolved it shall do now, the true state of the demands which are coming upon them for the support of this monopoly, and which never can be satisfied at all, but either by a direct supply from parliament, or by funding the India Company's debts, and adding the amount to the public debt of this kingdom. Before any act of that nature shall be attempted, it is fit that the people should know, what they are utterly ignorant of at present,—that is, the real amount of the demands, which they will have to provide for. To arrive at this knowledge, nothing more is necessary, than to examine the truth of the following allegations. I take them from the printed accounts, signed by the proper officers, which are now open before me. The statement will be very short, and as clear as I can make it.—By the account of debts in India, (printed in page 89) it appears that they amounted to £26,046,433, on the 30th of April, 1805, and, in the course of the debate, it was admitted on all hands that they could not be less than 31 millions at the present date, viz. July, 1806.—Of this debt, it appears (p. 91.) that £17,567,162,

is payable in England, at the option of the holders of the securities. The question then will be, by what means the Directors of the India Company will be able to meet this enormous demand upon their resources here, or any part of it that may be made in England.—By an estimate in p. 92. of the probable amount of the revenues and charges in India, for the year 1805, 6, it appears, that the expected deficiency upon the whole of their charges, after deducting their revenues is £2,655,957. This is the general state of the Company's Affairs abroad.—In looking at the state of their Affairs at home, the first fact that occurs is in p. 83, viz. That on an estimate of profit and loss of their sales in England for the year, ending the 1st of March, 1805, the deficiency is stated at £418,540.—But the account of their stock by computation in p. 78, is the most material document of all, not only to discover the truth, but to shew the fallacies which have been hitherto industriously employed to conceal it. This account exhibits an apparent balance in their favour of £6,181,267. And this is effected by means of the following expedients. First; the whole of their capital received from the subscribers and amounting to £7,788,000, is omitted, and nothing to shew for it. On the other side, they take credit for £4,460,192, as due from government of which, upon a liquidation only £2,200,000, is acknowledged, consequently the remainder is a false, or at least, a very doubtful credit.—The whole of their separate fund, which in March, 1805, was stated to be £343,520, has vanished out of this account. It ought to appear on the debit side, being in fact, a loan from the proprietors to the corporation.—In the first credit on this account they credit themselves for £1,207,560; that is, they reckon the capital of their 3 per cent. annuities at par, instead of the current price of the consols. All the balances of their quick stock abroad, if they were ever so right, would furnish nothing to the relief of their debts at home; much less would they be any thing the better for their dead stock, either at home or abroad, and for which they take credit 1,392,169l.—By the debit side of this account it appears that they have been borrowing money from all hands; as for example: Bonds in circulation £2,412,092. To the Bank 810,933l. To government borrowed out of tea duties £500,000. Interest on bonds £56,336. Debt to the public for 500,000l. a year, from the year 1794 inclusive, to the present year, being the stipulated price for the revenue of their charter £6,000,000.—From this ge-

neral state of their affairs, the public will be enabled to judge on which side the falsehood lies, viz. Whether Mr. Dundas and Lord Castlereagh have hitherto imposed upon the public, or whether the deliberate and solemn assertion of Mr. Alderman Pringle, in the House of Commons, on the 10th of July, "that the East-India Company were in a state of *absolute insolvency*," was true or false.—A subject of greater importance than this has seldom called for the attention of the public. It will not only *call for*; it will obtain attention. The millions must be *paid by the people of England*; or the whole system goes like tinder. One or the other must take place; and let the credulous people look to the consequences.—How often has it been represented to them, that this India system would be one of the great causes of their ruin! Still did they talk of the *riches* of the East-India Company! Still were they obstinately blind to the terrible mischief that India had in store for them! They even bowed down their head in base devotion to those who were yearly flocking home laden with riches, sucked, through the *channel of India*, out of the land and the labour of England! Let them bow and kneel and crawl still. Adversity is an excellent teacher, and of that they will, as far the debts of India can affect them, have enough.—Upon a subject very closely connected with the state of the East India Company's affairs, there has been recently published a pamphlet by a Dr. CHARLES MACLEAN. It is entitled: "The Affairs of Asia considered in their effects upon the Liberties of Britain, in a Series of Letters, addressed to the Marquis Wellesley, late Governor General of India, including a Correspondence with the Government of Bengal, under that Nobleman, and a Narrative of Transactions, involving the annihilation of the personal freedom of the Subject and the extinction of the Liberty of the Press in India, with the Marquis's *EDICT* for the regulation of the Press."—This pamphlet should be read by every man who has a wish to prevent the liberties of England from being totally annihilated. I have, as it will be remembered, frequently endeavoured to convince the public, that, besides the dreadful drain of men occasioned by "our Empire in the East;" besides the heavy weight of taxes, which that "Empire" imposed upon us; besides the hard labour, the poverty and the misery, which the "glorious conquests" in India, brought upon the people of England, of that England which was truly rich and truly great before

she heard the name of Hindostan; besides these, I have endeavoured to shew, that the manners, the insolent and tyrannical way of thinking and of acting contracted in the East Indies, were, by the means of the fortunes *sucked* out of us through the channel of India, one great cause of the degradation of the people of England. What sort of manners are contracted in India, what sort of example the *cub nabobs* have before their eyes, Dr. MACLEAN has now informed the world; and, unless we see his facts satisfactorily controverted, we may certainly beg leave to be excused if we smile, when our rulers remind us of the tyranny that is exercised in *France*. Yes, unless the statements of this writer be overset, it will be as well for English orators to say as little as possible about the French imprimatur and the *Cayenne Diligence*. It must, however, be confessed, that this arbitrary, this terrible power, of banishing, at an hour's warning, refractory printers and authors, has not *originated* with the Marquis Wellesley. There was a printer named DUANE, who was so banished, some years ago either by Sir JOHN SHORE or Lord CORNWALLIS. He was born in Ireland, where he served his time, and, after having been sometime in London, he went to Calcutta, where he established a printing-office. Being a man of spirit and of talents, he had the disposition and the capacity to make representations that were not relished *by* the government. He had *no trial*; his printing office was put down; his property was destroyed; his fortune, which was fast accumulating, was, in a moment, annihilated; he himself was seized, was thrown into a guard-house like a criminal soldier, and was, as soon as possible, shipped off to Europe, where he was landed without a shilling in his pocket and without a friend to assist him, or to console him. From England he went, smarting under his injuries, to America, where he has taken ample vengeance; for, of all the men in America, whether natives or foreigners, whether high or low in life, WILLIAM DUANE has been, and yet is, the most formidable enemy of England. Against such a man you do nothing, unless you take his *life*. He has obtained another printing-office; he has another fortune growing; the powers of his mind are left unshackled; and all those powers, which are very great, are employed in exciting and in perpetuating, amongst the people of America, a hatred of England. To Mr. DUANE's pen it was owing, chiefly, that the Board of Commissioners broke up without having accomplished their object. It was he who defended the conduct of the

American commissioners, and who stood ready to defend any thing that might be injurious to England; and, his talents had, and yet have, their natural effect upon the circulation of his paper and his doctrines. His banishment from India has cost us millions in the other hemisphere, and, greatly deceived am I, if this cost has, as yet, reached its total amount. That this conduct of Mr. DUANE is contrary to the dictates of loyalty and patriotism, as well as to those of morality, we know; but, though we must contemplate the works of his revenge with disapprobation, yet, we cannot contemplate them with any great degree of surprize; for, while men are subject to the power of their passions, revenge will, according to the extent of its accompanying capacity, follow injury; and, when the injury is inflicted by a government protected by the nation, upon the nation must alight the effects of the revenge. Such revenge is never to be justified. It behoves a man, who has been injured by the government of his country, to go patiently to work in the obtaining of redress; and, if he sees no hope of redress at present, it behoves him to wait for a time more auspicious. At any rate, he ought never to turn against his country. But, we are not, because this sort of revenge is criminal, to conclude that those, by whom it has been excited, ought not to have expected it.—It is the arbitrary power exercised over the press that has contributed more than any other cause to the present wretched state of the East India Company's affairs. Had the press been free, neither the "*glorious conquests*" nor the debt of 31,000,000 would have taken place. Had we been truly and in time informed of what was going forward, a stop would, long ago, have been put to the transactions which have produced that state of things, which Mr. ALDERMAN PRINCEP (who was uncontradicted) termed an "*absolute insolvency*;" and, while that system, which has been so ably exposed by Dr. MACLEAN, is suffered to exist, in all its horrors, in British colonies; while such a system is tolerated by the government at home, is there any reason to suppose, that we ourselves can have a security against the effects of such a system?—Since writing the above, the proceedings in the House of Commons, on the 15th instant, in a Committee upon the *India Budget*, have reached me, and to those proceedings I beg leave to call the most serious attention of the public. In the article, whence I have selected a passage as a motto to this sheet, I described the situation of the East India Company's affairs. Instructed by the speeches of Mr.

FRANCIS, I have, over and over again, forewarned the credulous people of England, that *they* would have to pay; and that most dearly too, for the "*conquests*" of the heroic Marquis, whose renowned deeds Lord Grenville thinks proper to extol so highly. Every year, for the last ten, PITT and DUNDAS (and, more recently, Lord Castlereagh), have boasted to the House of Commons, how India, and the India Company were flourishing under their mode of government. Every year did Mr. FRANCIS contradict them, and endeavour, though in vain, to awaken, in his listless hearers, an attention to the subject. "Well," said he, more than once, "you will not hear me *now*; but, mind, I tell you, that the time *will* come when this subject will *force* *itself* upon you."—That time is now arrived. The real state of the Company's concerns can no longer be disguised; and, Lord Castlereagh (in the *absence* of all the ministers) has, at last, opened the grand scheme of an union of the public with the East India Company, upon the *principle* of the *Union with Ireland*, and funding all their debts under the guarantee, that is to say, at the risk of the public, who would, by such union, be made responsible for the payment of the interest; and, I beg the deluded people of England to consider, that these debts, including the Company's capital stock, would be moderately stated at FIFTY MILLIONS of pounds sterling!—The speech, in which this notable scheme was broached, followed a speech of Mr. ALDERMAN PRINCEP, who proved that the Company was *insolvent*. He did not content himself with assertion; but, to the conviction of every one who heard him proved it.—The Speech of Lord Castlereagh, as given in the news-paper report, was as follows:—"Lord Castlereagh was *fully* aware of *the difficulties* under which the East India Company at present laboured." [He had always *denied* the existence of any such difficulties.] "He nevertheless was very far from entertaining in his mind that gloomy view of the Company's affairs which had been drawn by the worthy Alderman who had just sat down. On the contrary, he was well convinced that if the Company's affairs were *vigorously* conducted, it would not be long until they would reach as great a state of prosperity as the most sanguine wishes of any friend to the interests of the Company could reasonably entitle them to expect. For the accomplishment of this great object he would recommend that the general state of the Company's affairs should un-



“determine the most ample investigation before
 “a Committee” [The very thing that he
 rejected last year, when Mr. Francis
 proposed it.] “The result, he was confi-
 “dent, would be *highly favourable to the*
 “*Company*. But, at the same time that he
 “was convinced, from his knowledge of
 “the affairs of the Company, that a Com-
 “mittee which had it in view to obtain a
 “correct statement of the debts, assets, and
 “revenue of the Company, must necessari-
 “ly draw inferences *favourable to the Com-*
 “*pany*, as he had before stated; still he
 “most clearly saw that *something* was
 “wanting for the present to be done for the
 “*assistance of the Company*. To attain
 “this great and most desirable object, he
 “would recommend that *a loan should be*
 “*raised under the sanction of Parliament*,
 “not that he could by any means suppose
 “that there could be any *hesitation or doubt*
 “*of the solvency of the Company*, but that
 “he saw how much *more advantageously*
 “a loan would be raised under such cir-
 “cumstances, than if the Company, *itself*
 “was to go into the market for that pur-
 “pose. Before Ireland was united to this
 “country, it was the uniform practice
 “with the English Parliament to include
 “the Loan for Ireland in one general Vote
 “along with that which was given for this
 “Country. By the adoption of such a
 “system, the Company would gain what
 “they most particularly wanted; an ex-
 “tension of their capital, and the Public
 “would have *considerably better security*
 “than they could now possibly have, as,
 “from the *profits to accrue* from such an
 “extension of capital, there would be
 “*a sinking fund for the total and speedy*
 “*extinction of the whole debt*.”—It would
 not, even if I had time, be necessary to be-
 stow much of it in commenting upon this
 precious proposition. The ministers were
 all absent. For what reason I know not;
 but, so it was; and, it was strange enough
 that they should be absent upon such an
 occasion. The house was almost empty;
 and Mr. ROBSON, ever attentive to his duty,
 and resolved, apparently, that the minis-
 ters should be brought to speak upon this
 subject, rose and counted the House, when
 it appeared, that, out of 658 members,
 there were only thirty-one present. Of
 course, the House adjourned, and left the
 subject to be revived another time. Before
 this sheet reaches the public, it will have
 discovered what the ministers mean to do;
 but, let every one be ready to protest against
 the proposition; for, if adopted, it will
 add two millions a year to the taxes of the

nation! The Pitt and Dundas and Grenville
 system (for these latter have now owned it)
 of governing India is coming upon us in its
pecuniary effects. In its *political* effects the
 deceived nation has long been sinking under
 it; and, indeed, it has already pressed us
 pretty well with taxes; but, now it is
 coming with the weight of a mountain.—
 I shall in my next, return to this subject,
 and remind the Pitts and the Grenvilles of
 all their boastings about the flourishing state
 of India; and in the mean while, I beg the
 public to bear in mind, that Lord Grenville
 has, within these ten days, boasted of the
flourishing state in which India had been left
by his friend Lord Wellesley; that very
 Lord Wellesley, who found the India debt
 eleven millions, and who left it thirty-one
 millions!

PEACE.—It is truly surprising, that
 men should, upon meeting one another,
 ask: “do you think there is any hopes of
 “peace?” It is indeed, surprising, that,
 after all they have seen, they should still
 look forward to peace as an object resembling
 a *peace of former times*; and that they should
 appear to expect from a treaty, signed under
 the present circumstances, a disbanding of
 regiments, a dismantling of ships, a reduc-
 tion of taxes, and, in short, all the usual
 consequences of a change from a state of
 war to a state of peace! One would think,
 that they had neither seen nor heard for
 years past; that they had no recollection of
 the peace of Amiens; and that the battle of
 Austerlitz and all the other events of the
 present war had passed totally unnoticed by
 them.—Amongst the fund-holders and
 the jobbers of the Alley some effect will be
 produced by a treaty of peace; but, as to
 the people in general, a peace will produce
 no effect at all. Peace, if made under the
 present circumstances of Europe, and in the
 present pecuniary situation of England, can
 be, between France and England, nothing
 more than a mere *cessation of hostilities*, a
 season for new and more formidable pre-
 parations for war. The professed object of
 the war, on our part, was, the restoration
 of the balance of the continent, or, in the
 words of that wise monument man, whose
 debts we have paid, it was, “to repress the
 “*ambition and chastise the insolence of*
 “*Buonaparté*,” in which, I think, it will
 not, even by Lord Grenville, be said that
 we have quite succeeded. The real point of
 quarrel was *Malta*; and, are there many
 persons who imagine that *we* shall keep
 Malta? What justification of the treaty,
 other than the plea of absolute necessity,
 can be discovered it is out of my power to

imagine; and, does any man suppose, that, under the effects of such a peace, we shall be able to bear up against the designs and the power of France? Shall we, having made such a peace, be able so to act as to preserve peace otherwise than by submission to every injury and every insult that the enemy pleases to give way to? The chief cause of the last rupture, was, that the ministers found it impossible to live in peace, and, as Mr. Addington said, we "were at war because we could not be at peace." Will not the same reason again arise? During the last peace, the produce of the land and the labour of England was, in a great degree at the mercy of France; because France, having the power of raising or sinking our funds at her pleasure, the amount of her gains could have no measure but that of the extent of our endurance. And will not the like occur again? Shall we not be even *more* disposed to endure than we were before? If there be any man in the country who can cause the funds to fall to-day and to rise again to-morrow, and so on for a length of time, is it not evident, that he can draw from that source whatever riches he pleases? And, why should not Napoleon do the same, if he can, *with impunity*, threaten us to-day and soothe us to-morrow? *Here* lies the danger. *This* is our great and mortal disease. While the radical cause of our debility exists, there is no safety for us in peace. Peace cannot last. It may be honoured with the name, but it will have in it nothing of the nature of peace.—Before we think of any thing worthy of the name of peace, our *pecuniary* affairs must undergo a radical reform. There must be less left in the power of the enemy at the stock-exchange; there must be a reduction of expence; there must be great relief on the score of taxes; the people must not be solely occupied in making preparation for the moment when the tax-gatherer shall knock at their door. Whether such a reform is likely to take place the reader may be able to judge from the measures which the *Ins* have brought forward, and which the *Outs* have cordially approved of, during the present session of parliament. Yet, there *must* be a reform; there must be a reduction of expence; or there never will again be real peace between England and France, as *independent* nations.—Pitiable, truly lamentable, therefore, is it to hear men talk of peace as a source of tranquillity and of ease! They do not perceive the change of circumstances, and, it is greatly to be feared, that they never will perceive it until it be too late.—Ask them

why they approved of going to war, and the answer is, it was impossible to live at peace with such a restless neighbour as Buonaparté. Well! Buonaparté is still alive; and, is it not equally impossible to live at peace with him *now*? Do you think, that he is, either by Pitt's "chastising," or by the effect of adversity, become more moderate in his views? Or, do you think, that, after the "third coalition" he has more reason to be reconciled to England than he had before?—To these questions we receive *no answer*: we have again to listen to the utterance of vague, undefined hopes; and, we are reluctantly compelled to leave the hopes to be enlightened in that school, wherein alone wisdom is taught unto fools.—My view of the situation of Europe in general, and of England in particular, renders me very little anxious upon the subject of peace; because, whether there be war in name as well as in the thing, or whether there be war under the name of peace, is of little consequence; and, as to the *terms*, it is ridiculous to hope that they will, if peace be made under our present pecuniary circumstances, be nearly so good as those of the peace of Amiens. If, indeed, there were a reform in the national expenditure; if the public debt were brought, as it might be, within manageable bounds; if a cheap and efficient military force were completely established; then might an English minister say, I will have real peace, or you, France, shall never have a moment's tranquillity; for, I can carry on war with you for ever. And, *why* are not these things done? Where is the *obstacle* to their accomplishment? Where is the *reason* that what is necessary to our political salvation cannot be adopted? The reason, is, that while every man is calling upon every other man to *make sacrifices*, no man will make sacrifices *himself*; but, on the contrary, it would seem as LORD ELLENBOROUGH expressed it in the case of the Athol Claim, that there prevails a general opinion that the ship is upon the rocks, and that every one is endeavouring to rifle the chests, in the hope of escaping from the wreck. This is the reason that nothing efficient is done; and, as the safety of a nation depends solely upon the will and the exertions of the people composing it, what must be our fate, if this disposition continues? Times of great public trouble and calamity, times of arduous trial, do frequently bring forth, in nations as well as in individuals, extraordinary virtues and talents. God send that this may be the case in England! But, if any one imagines, that the independence of this country is

now to be preserved by party harangues, or by diplomatic arts, he will, if he live but a very few years, find himself miserably deceived. A nation, situated as we now are, was never yet rescued by *ordinary* means, much less by means that are weak, if not despicable. There must be extraordinary virtue and extraordinary talent; and, again I say, God send that we may find them!

BARRACK-ABUSES.—In page 897 of the preceding volume (there continuing the subject from p. 773.) I gave an account, accompanied with documents, of the dismissal of Mr. ATKINS (late Barrack-Master of Sandown Bay Division in the Isle of Wight) by the Spartan General, FITZPATRICK, in February last. The reader will find, at p. 905, a copy of an affidavit made against Mr. ATKINS by one Ward, a barn-owner in the Isle of Wight. This affidavit, it will be recollected, charges Mr. ATKINS with speculation; and, it will be further recollected, that it was moved for and *printed* upon motions of Lord Henry Petty. Since that, Mr. ROBSON has moved for counter-affidavits communicated to the Secretary at War by Mr. ATKINS, from which, if I am rightly informed, it will appear, that Ward's affidavit was *false*. Yet, observe, it is not Lord Henry Petty who moves for the producing and printing of the affidavits containing this unfortunate gentleman's *defence*! We shall see and say more of this hereafter; but, at present, so much for the *glass-house morality* of Lord Henry Petty!—In the mean while, I lose no time in communicating to the public another paper laid before the House of Commons upon the motion of Mr. ROBSON, and printed by order of the House, entitled "*Copy of a Memorial of Mr. John Pritchard; presented to the COMMISSIONERS OF MILITARY INQUIRY, on the 20th of January, 1806.*" This memorial, which follows immediately after the present article is worthy of great attention. It will require some explanation in my next; as will the letter of Mr. WINDHAM, which follows it. But, for the present, I must confine myself to an earnest request, that every man, into whose hands this Register may fall, will give the whole of the memorial of this meritorious and most injured man an attentive perusal; and, at the conclusion, the question to ask himself, is, "*are these things to go on?*"—*Bolley, July 17.*

BARRACKS.—*Copy of Memorial of Mr. John Pritchard; Presented to the Commissioners of Military Inquiry, on 20th of Jan. 1806. Moved for in the House of Commons by Mr. Robson, and ordered to be printed July 8th.*

"GENTLEMEN,—Public justice being emanant from individual wrongs, I deem it a duty to submit to your consideration a detail of abuses, from which have originated the sufferings of one whose crime has been an honest but ineffectual effort to expose faults and glaring peculation, practised a short time back in a district of the barrack department in this country.—Constituted as your hon. board is by authority, legislative and executive, I cannot but cherish, as a consolation, the hope, that although justice has elsewhere been denied to me, the service of my country will, from your hands, reap, by an inquiry into the causes of my misfortunes, at least the valuable result of deterring others from a system of mal-practices too successfully pursued by my persecutors — I am sensible, gentlemen, of the delicacy which necessarily precedes the acquiescence to an inquiry so serious as that which I now solicit; I am aware that the implicated is entitled to as much consideration as his accuser; but equally am I convinced, that as justice to the public is the anxious object of your labour, so will its attainment be your principal bias.—To your notice, therefore, I trust it will be a sufficient introduction to state, that, as the persecuted father of a family, whose interest I have sacrificed to that of my country, I feel compelled in justice to them and to myself, to lay before you and the public, a recital of glaring abuses, in combating which I unfortunately entailed on myself the too powerful vengeance of those concerned.—After a series of disasters originating with services rendered by me on the Continent, I was appointed to the situation of barrack master, under the most auspicious assurances from high authority, that, on the part of his Majesty's government, such a provision (with the promise of one more lucrative) was considered merely as an indemnification for the loss of the establishment, and prospects in life, which my ill-fated family had sustained, my claims for loss and property having been previously attested, were officially recommended to the Commissioners of the Treasury by the Secretary at War, not only for indemnification, but also for some reward for my sufferings and services, whereon their lordships were pleased to direct the sum of three hundred pounds to be issued to me for the momentary purpose of alleviating the embarrassments I then laboured under, and as stated to me by Mr. Rose, further reserved until the peace, the consideration of the whole amount of my claims for loss of property amounting to £2,500 —In my communication with the Secretary at War (Mr. Windham) after re-

citing the strong measures by which my claims were recommended, he assured me, that when the fate of the Netherlands should be decided, the subject of my losses would be fully attended to; an assurance which, I regret to state, has never been carried into effect.—Under these circumstances I was appointed Barrack Master of the West Medina Mill Barracks, in the Isle of Wight, and having previously given a bond to the amount of £500 for the due execution of my duty as regulated by his Majesty's instructions, I proceeded to that island in 1798. Shortly after I had undertaken the charge of them, representations were made to me by the tradesmen employed in the department, and by other persons of respectability, that the most shameful impositions were practised there, and through the whole district of Hampshire, both in the hire of buildings, and in the price of every article supplied for the use of the barracks. A sense of duty impelled me to inquire into the fact, and to my astonishment I found that the articles specified were charged at an advance of from ten to seventy per cent. more than the usual price; a considerable number of buildings at Newport, Cowes, and other parts of the island, of which the barracks under my charge formed a part, was pointed out to me, some of which had been nearly rebuilt, and fitted up at a great expense to government as hospitals, barracks, or storehouses, and charged from one to five hundred per cent. more than was actually paid to the real owners, and continued so to the benefit of certain individuals for many years, when no use whatever was, or from their nature could be made of them. On further inquiry I also found, that the barrack surveyor of the district (Mr. Smith) a part of whose duty I naturally supposed was to check impositions, required and received from the tradespeople employed 5 per cent. on the amount of their bills, or a douceur equivalent to that sum; that Mr. Bird Wilkins, ironmonger, agent to Major Lewis, superintendant of the district, and principal contractor in the hire of buildings, although paying the accounts, and keeping the barrack-books, and who himself supplied the principal articles to all the barracks in the island, also levied contributions by way of subscription, in the favour of a Mr. Daniel Page, assistant to the major, for the trouble in passing the respective accounts of the claimants; a repetition of which practice naturally leads to an increase of charge by the tradespeople.—With these facts before me, in addition to the knowledge of the constant sale of the barrack coals to the in-

habitants at a reduced price, to your consideration, gentlemen, I submit, whether, under a conviction so positive, it was not my duty, at least as far as depended on me, to check the continuation of abuses as injurious to the public service, as they were disgraceful to the barrack department. Were I influenced by no other consideration, the bond I had given, and the instructions I had received, urged my interference, with the resolution, however, if possible, of not involving myself by discussions or inquiries into acts preceding my appointment.—No sooner had I taken the necessary steps to reduce to a fair market-standard, the price of all articles supplied to the barracks under my charge, than those interested took alarm at the consequences which were likely to ensue. Mr. Wilkins, after in vain using every argument to induce me to allow him to continue supplying the barracks as before (and as expressed by him to be the wish of Major Lewis) concluded by offering, with as little effect, a share in the profits; although sensible that the Major was the dupe of such designing characters, his extreme ill state of health and infirmities would have prevented my troubling him on that subject, necessity however compelled me to do so. A Mr. Robert Stears, in conjunction with Mr. Wilkins, in the most clandestine manner, and under false representations, obtained a contract to supply all the barracks on the island with straw (a very considerable article) at one-third more than the utmost price; against this I remonstrated, and my interference so far defeated the object; but, determined on its attainment, Mr. Wilkins caused printed hand bills to be circulated, recommending to farmers possessing straw, a purchaser, by application to himself.—The Barracks of Winchester, and other parts of the district, were in the same manner supplied by Mrs. Wools, sister to the Major; and those at Fareham, on the authority of Mr. Pyott, the Barrack Master thereof, I was assured had been frequently supplied with barley-straw for the use of those troops, which was charged as the best wheaten; and that faggots, in size resembling a crow's nest, were charged considerably more than the best could have been purchased at; and further, that this lady had frequently charged, without service, waggons and horses for Barrack purposes.—Mrs. Parker, a favoured friend of Major Lewis, took a house, the property of Mr. Barton of Newport, taylor, at the rent of £30 per ann. for the use (as asserted by her) of a family then resident in London; this house, however, was shortly after rented from her by the or-

der of Major Lewis, to Mr. Horloch, at £70 per annum, as a mess and lodging-house for officers, and although certainly not wanting, nor even used for one-third of the time, it was so charged to government. When the owner expostulated with this lady on the trick she had thus artfully played on him, she replied, "that, seeing every one robbing government, she might as well get a little in the scramble."—To an exposure of these and similar frauds, as hereafter detailed, do I now, gentlemen, owe the persecution I have experienced; judging by my own feelings, I too inconsiderately attributed to others an equal zeal and disinterestedness. My fate has been ruin, theirs a profitable triumph; finding vain all efforts to seduce me to connivance, misrepresentation was by them resorted to, every obstacle was opposed to me in the execution of my duty, under false and frivolous pretences; my accounts, contrary to his Majesty's regulations, were kept back during 20 months, and all means were employed to harass and distress me. In self-defence I was at last compelled to represent the subject, and my grievances, to the Barrack-Master-General, Lieut. Gen. Delancy; and in consequence thereof, the late Major Foster Hill, of the Barrack Office, and Captain G. Bygrove, then Assistant Superintendant of that Department, in the Isle of Wight, and who, if not interested, certainly to my knowledge was acquainted with the abuses which existed, were, together with Major Lewis, and Mr. Page before alluded to, directed to investigate the subject.—From a court of inquiry thus composed, my hopes of obtaining an impartial investigation were certainly not sanguine; and when I state that its president asserted to me his determination, if possible, of counteracting my efforts, this honourable board will easily anticipate the result of its proceedings. Under their influence and direction, without my knowledge, an instrument was drawn up, as a denial of the circumstances represented by me, which paper was presented to the tradespeople, and their signature enforced by misrepresentations, threats, and promises. Of this act, gentlemen, as well as of the existence of the abuses complained of, I am willing to adduce the most unequivocal proof; the contrition of those whose signatures were thus obtained, has since been fully expressed, by an offer voluntarily made (but rejected by me) liberally to compensate by a subscription for the injury I thereby had sustained. Satisfied with this kind of evidence, as a refutation to what I had alleged, they triumphantly forwarded it

to the Barrack Master General's office, where it remained to be exhibited, to prejudice those who felt any interest in my behalf; nor were their efforts even confined to misrepresentation: determined in every respect to harass me, the interested individuals urged others to commence actions at law against me for debts, which an influenced stoppage of my accounts rendered me unable to pay and discharge.—Such, gentlemen, has been the injustice I experienced on that occasion, and in vain have I ever since humbly solicited a revisal or inquiry into the subject, and, although subsequent appeals afforded ample grounds for a compliance with my entreaties, as you will perceive by the annexed copy of a letter from the right hon. W. Windham, yet my applications to H. R. H. the Commander in Chief, and to several Secretaries at War, expressive of my willingness to substantiate the existence of the abuses represented by me, have as yet produced no other effect than that of securing to my persecutors the peaceable enjoyment of their honest earnings.—In this appeal it certainly is not my wish too much to intrude the sufferings I have experienced, and if it should be my misfortune to exceed that determination, I trust your hon. board will blend the cause with the effect, and attribute my superfluous detail to the anxiety and feelings of the father of an injured family; relying therefore on your judgment, I shall proceed briefly to enumerate the further abuses which occurred, and were reported by me, until my suspension from the situation I held in that department.—In the month of Oct. 1799, the Dutch sailors and soldiers who had surrendered to, or joined the British army at the Helder, and afterwards in number about four thousand, were sent to the Isle of Wight. For their accommodation, additional barns, stables, hovels, and even cellars, were taken at Newport, Cowes, and other places, which, after being nearly rebuilt and fitted up at extraordinary expense, were, for obvious motives, charged as similar ones had been, and continued to be so, at an amount greater considerably than really paid for, although at the same time several good buildings, capable of holding many hundred men, and pointed out by me, were, at a lesser rent, offered and rejected. A house, the property of Mr. Dennet of Newport, timber merchant, was by him offered at 50l. per annum, as a mess and lodging-house for the officers belonging to those troops, the offer was refused; but the refusal was accompanied with an intimation, that if he would let it to a lady before alluded to, he should cer-

tainly receive the amount; it was in consequence let and charged to the Barrack Department, I believe, at 150*l.* or thereabouts per annum. A hovel, situated in Parkhurst Forest, built of sod walls, and without pavement, was taken from the contractor by Mr. Wilkins, and allotted to those troops as an hospital for which he charged the Barrack Department a sum considerably greater than the building of this stable (for as such it was previously used by the artillery) cost. Apprehensive, however, of an exposure of the transaction, he afterwards caused it to be taken down, and the materials sold—With the extent of these frauds I am fully acquainted, and on the veracity of persons of respectability, who are willing to prove the assertion, I can further state, that receipts were required from those whose buildings were rented, specifying sums greater than those which they actually received. They, however, cautiously avoided on all occasions to accept the tender of any person who had the misfortune of being well acquainted with me, and caused their intentions to be known to that effect. Emolument being the sole object, the places taken for those troops were, under the auspices of Mr. Wilkins and Capt. Bygrove, so confined, as to render necessary a distribution of three men to a birth; although even at that time, as before stated, extensive buildings were offered at a much less rent, and at one-third of the expense, would have made wholesome and good barracks for several hundred men, but were rejected. Distributed in such hovels, and destitute of even a change of linen, or even clothes to cover them during a winter intensely cold, their distress was aggravated by the kind of provisions supplied to them by contract; a contagion ensued, which, in its nature and effect, became so alarming, that the inhabitants, terrified at the extra number of deaths, remonstrated against a farther interment of them in the church-yards, and compelled thereby the sufferers to resort to a spot in Parkhurst Forest, as a deposit for the remains of their unfortunate countrymen.—This extraordinary mortality in its effects was not confined to the Dutch, it extended also to the British, who also afterwards occupied the barracks, and during several years the consequences of that fever were severely felt.—In that department I was the only person on the Island who understood the French and Dutch languages. My acquaintance on the Continent with many of their officers, induced them to communicate to me their feelings and astonishment at a treatment so unexpected and unmerited.

Daily witnessing in the Barracks under my charge, the extraordinary mortality which prevailed; a sense of national pride, under a conviction that the sufferers were the victims of speculators only, urged me to yield to the solicitations of Gen. Baron Grosse and others, to wait on Gen. Pigott, then commanding on the Island, to whom I exhibited samples of the provisions with which those men were supplied, their bread consisting of bad barley, dried on a kiln, on the second day smelt so strong, as to become offensive even to the brute creation. Their meat was chiefly bull, or old cow, and their beer was equally obnoxious.—To Gen. Pigott's humanity (if from me any observation could add lustre to its greatness) I am bound to state, that those unfortunate men certainly owed a considerable alleviation of their treatment; they experienced by a prompt, and, as far as depended on him, an effectual exertion to ameliorate their situation. Although honoured with that General's approbation for my conduct, on that as well as on other occasions, yet Col. Stapleton, of the Barrack Department, in a manner which but little suited the rank his Sovereign had honoured him with, was pleased to reprimand me for daring to make representations on the subject; his motives were certainly best known to himself; of the transactions there, I must however be permitted to assert, that he could not, or at least ought not to have been ignorant.—Mr. Wilkins, availing himself of the distress to which party intrigues had then reduced me, offered, through his chief clerk and others, the accommodation of any money I might require; and he personally hinted to me, that he would make my situation worth 500*l.* per annum; but unshaken in my determination, notwithstanding the offers which I received, strictly to adhere to the line of duty which conscience and honour dictated to me, the vengeance of my opponents increased tenfold; my accounts were kept back for the purpose of distressing me, and at a period when nearly 400*l.* were due to me; my creditors were instigated, under promises made by persons in or connected with the department, to commence actions at law against me, and, in consequence thereof, I was frequently arrested. An appeal, on my part, to the Barrack Master General was attended with no effect; instead of redress I was fully given to understand, that had I conformed to Major Lewis's wishes, my accounts, like those of others, would have been passed: my application to the Major caused them to be returned, with an observation, that I had given credit for 240*l.* 13*s.* the amount of the half year's rent

the Barracks under my charge; and for which, by making them out again, I might make credit; the receipt, for the payment of that money, I had positively forwarded, and was at that time in their possession.—Those Barracks were let to government by Bird Wilkins, and have since been purchased and charged to the department 5,000*l.* although they had previously been offered to me for 2,500*l.*—Of their motives, gentlemen, I will leave you to judge. On the subject I heard no more. In the meantime, an action for defamation was brought against me by Page, grounded on the forced signatures of the trades-people, obtained on the inquiry already spoken of, if such it can be called.—Deprived of the means necessary to meet it, by an unjust, and, I may say, unprecedented stoppage of my accounts, without even a plausible reason, he insured to himself an easy triumph, and obtained judgment by default. Of this person, I trust I may be permitted to say a few words, without incurring the censure of too much personality, particularly so, as the observations I shall make are intended solely to point out, by elucidation, circumstances which may perhaps be deemed worthy of inquiry.—From the situation of a writer in the office of an attorney at Winchester (Mr. Green, the assistant superintendent of the district, and in that of Mr. Doller, also an attorney and barrack storekeeper) he became the confidential agent of Bird Wilkins, who supplied all the Barracks on the Island, and has ultimately been rewarded with the Barrack Mastership of Winchester, which before was occupied by his patron. On the authority of a person of respectability at that place, whose son has made the instrument, I can assert, that Mr. Page employed him frequently to write over tradespeople's bills and receipts, making the sums considerably greater than the original specified. Of this circumstance, information was given to me in the Isle of Wight, and I, in consequence, demanded of each tradesman supplying the barracks under my charge, regular dates and signatures. The bills, thus authenticated, were returned to me by Mr. Page, which, together with a letter from himself on the subject, are now in my possession.—His Majesty's regulations having forbidden to Barrack-masters the enjoyment of any interest in houses, waggons, boats, carts, &c. employed in the Barrack Department, a sale took place, the whole were (as I am informed) bought in and continued to be employed as the property of a working carpenter, named [unclear], whose sister had lived as a servant with Major, and was then in keeping with

him.—In his old age this lady blessed him with an offspring, great care was taken amply to provide in the will for her and the babe, and she has since become the wife of her constant friend Mr. Page, and he child the object of his paternal solicitude. In vain I entreated a removal to some other district, representing the hardships under which I laboured; and the causes from which my persecution originated; involved in actions at law for debts, which the nonpayment of my accounts rendered me unable to liquidate, I solicited a few days leave of absence, for the purpose of convincing (if possible) my creditors, by a personal application, that (contrary to what was insinuated to them) the sum due to me was adequate to the discharge of my engagements. The answer I received was evasive, and the subject being too pressing, I proceeded to London, leaving a proper person to attend the Barracks; and although my absence did not exceed one week, yet, on my return, I was suspended by the Barrack-Master-General's order.—Anxious to apply for an investigation of my conduct, I lost no time in delivering the stores in my possession, in every article of which I made over a surplus; of coals alone, I delivered near 1200 bushels more than were expected from me; sixty chaldrons thereof I then had deposited with coal merchants of respectability at Newport, from whose storehouses I supplied the officers, the greater number of whom were always in lodgings there, by which contrivance I saved the expense of a storehouse, or that of one mile's conveyance on a road impassable in bad weather. Had the practices of others, even in my distress, been deemed by me a justification for fraud, I certainly could have availed myself of the opportunity and solicitation to accept payment for that quantity; to my astonishment, however, when I produced to Capt. Bygrove the receipts of those merchants, he objected to the security, and kindly offered to take the value in money; an agreement, which too much experience had taught me the propriety of opposing. The coals were therefore delivered at the Barracks. After much trouble, my accounts at length were passed, without any other deduction than one of 5*l.* per annum, a charge I made on the verbal assurance of the Barrack-Master-General, namely, that 30*l.* a year house rent would be allowed me, instead of which I received twenty-five only.—Were the treatment I have since experienced a subject worthy of your notice, I would implore a consideration of its details; thirteen months imprisonment at the suit of Page, for the verdict which his

intrigues and those of others rendered me unable to prevent, has been the reward of my services and integrity.—During a confinement thus occasioned, various were the applications which on the part of my persecutors were made to me; disappointed by my determination to persevere in pressing a consideration of my case, and consequently dreading an inquiry into their malpractices, they caused an offer to be made to me not only of my liberty, but also of an indemnification, with an assurance of being reinstated, provided I would apologize to Major Lewis for the past. A conviction of the rectitude of my conduct, as attested by certificates in my possession, from General Don, and the commanding officers of every regiment quartered in the Barracks under my charge, enabled me to prefer the hardship of a prison to a retraction so disagreeable; and although my injured family were the sufferers, I rejected the compromise.—With you, Gentlemen, rests the power of affording me an opportunity to substantiate proofs of peculation and fraud; and if justice to the public can be the result of your acquiescence to the inquiry, I shall forget my sufferings, and congratulate my country.—I have the honor to be, &c.—(Signed) JOHN PRITCHARD. 20th Jan. 1806. No. 13, Piccadilly.—The above is a true copy of the memorial presented by John Pritchard, late Barrack-Master of the Medina Mill Barracks, in the Isle of Wight, to the Commissioners of Military Inquiry on the 20th of Jan. 1806, relative to the Barrack Department. H. Oakes, J. Drinkwater, Sam. C. Cox, Giles Templeman, Henry Peters, Chas. Bosanquet, B. C. Stephenson.

“ Sir; Though I cannot comply with
 “ your request of presenting your memorial
 “ to the Secretary at War, and recommend-
 “ ing a re-consideration of it, because I
 “ think such a proceeding on my part would
 “ seem to imply a stronger opinion than my
 “ information on the subject authorizes me
 “ to entertain, yet I am perfectly ready to
 “ do all that I ever promised; that is to say,
 “ to declare that the decision which I gave
 “ upon your case, was not such at the time
 “ as wholly to exclude from my mind all
 “ doubt of its propriety; and that I should
 “ be sorry if the authority of that decision
 “ stood in the way of any further inquiry,
 “ which from other considerations, might
 “ appear to be necessary, or of any favora-
 “ ble intentions which might be entertained
 “ in your behalf.—Though the decision

“ which I gave for your removal from your
 “ office, was such as was called for by the
 “ evidence then laid before me, the case was
 “ at all times of a sort that might admit of
 “ doubt, and those doubts have been since
 “ so far strengthened in my mind, as would
 “ have led me, had I remained in the situa-
 “ tion in which I was, to have made some
 “ further inquiry though without pretend-
 “ ing to say, whether the result of that in-
 “ quiry might not have confirmed the for-
 “ mer judgment, and still less whether it
 “ would have afforded any evidence that
 “ could have justified the setting it aside,—
 “ I am, Sir, &c.—W. Windham.

PUBLIC PAPER.

KING OF HOLLAND, *Concluded from p. 32.*

But, doubtless, if perfection were the lot of humanity, we might then dispense with a government of this kind. Laws would then be founded in wisdom, and obeyed without reluctance or obstacle; virtue would reign triumphant, and insure its own reward; vice would be banished, and wickedness rendered impotent; but illusions which favour such romantic ideas of human nature are transient; and experience soon bring us back to positive facts.—However, even monarchy is not sufficient for a country which, though powerful and important, is not sufficiently so for its position, which requires forces of the first rank both by land and sea. It will, therefore, be necessary for it to form a connection with one of the great powers of Europe, with which its amity may be eternally assured without any alteration of its independence.—This, gentlemen, is what your nation has done; this is the object of its constitutional laws, and also that of my taking upon me an employment so glorious; this is my object in placing myself in the midst of a people who are, and ever shall be mine, by my affection and solicitude. With pride I perceive two of the principal means of government and confidence offering themselves to me; the honour and the virtue of the inhabitants.—Yes, gentlemen, these shall be the real supporters of the throne. I wish for no other guides. For my part, I know no distinctions of religion or party; distinctions can only arise from merit and services. My design is only to remedy the evils which the country has suffered. The duration of these evils, and the difficulty in remedying them, will only increase and realize my glory.